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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	T	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/615,876	03/14/96	OYA		1000-4251

LM01/1228

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NEW YORK NY 10154

SRIVAST/EXAMINER

271 UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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12/28/98

12

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**08/615,876**

Applicant(s)  
**Oya et al**

Examiner  
**Vivek Srivastava**

Group Art Unit  
**2711**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 7, 1998

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-23 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 12 and 24 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 9

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3-10, 16, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan in view of Griesshaber et al.

Considering claim 3, Morgan disclose the claimed camera control system for selecting at least one of a plurality of controllable cameras connected to a network, comprising camera-status display means for real-time displaying statuses of at least two of the cameras, camera selecting means for selecting a camera, whose picked up image is to displayed, from a plurality of controllable cameras whose statuses are displayed by the camera-status display means, wherein said camera-status display means displays connection and disconnection of the cameras to the network, and start and end of use, parameters and available or unavailable status of one connected camera (fig. 1, fig. 2, col 2 lines 6-38 and col 3 lines 1-58, if camera indication is not on then camera is disconnected to the network, not in use, and unavailable). Morgan fails to disclose the

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claimed image display means for displaying the image picked up by the selected camera on the screen on which the status of the camera is displayed.

Morgan discloses a camera status screen and a image pickup screen separate from the status screen. Griesshaber teaches a camera control system where the camera status and image displayed are shown on the same screen. It would have been obvious showing the camera status and image on the same screen would have eliminated the need for an extra display screen thus reducing the hardware cost and size of the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Morgan based on the teachings of Griesshaber to display both the camera status and image on the same screen to reduce system size and hardware cost.

Considering claim 4, Morgan discloses of a monitoring location which displays layout of cameras wherein an operator knows a camera is in use because of the "on" and field of view triangle shown in figure 2. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that a plurality of monitoring stations would have provided added security and added convenience to the monitoring system, and it would have been obvious to use a "on" symbol in a different color to let the user know that a particular camera is being controlled from another location. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the invention of Morgan to include a plurality of display stations because added security and convenience to the monitoring system would have expected, and it would have been obvious to display a camera operated in another location by another user in different color because it would

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have informed a user that a camera is operated by another user in another location and a more efficient and secure monitoring system would have been expected.

Considering claim 5, Morgan inherently discloses the claimed wherein said camera-status display means displays a pan angle by a direction of camera (since camera has panning function, and display shows the field of view, the camera inherently displays the pan angle).

Considering claim 6, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein if registration of a new camera is informed on the system, the symbol display means displays a camera symbol of the new camera on the layout, while if cameras disconnected, said layout display means deletes the camera symbol of the camera on the layout (fig 2, camera 62 is on and on layout, camera 72 is disconnected and the “cam” symbol is not displayed).

Considering claim 7, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein said symbol-displays a symbol of an unavailable camera so as to indicate response less status (fig 2, camera 72 shows “off” status indicating the camera is response less).

Considering claim 8, Morgan discloses the claimed camera control means and management means wherein control means notifies management means of the statuses of the camera (col 3 lines 20-58).

Considering claim 9, Morgan inherently discloses that wherein the camera control means notifies the statuses of the cameras in accordance with instruction from said management means (when management means turns on camera, the camera control means notifies the status of the camera on the display).

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Considering claim 10, see claim 9.

Considering claim 16, Morgan discloses the claimed layout display means, the claimed symbol display means, wherein the symbol display means displays one or more current statuses of predetermined features of the cameras with the camera symbols (fig 2).

Considering claim 18, Morgan discloses the claimed camera-status display statuses of connection of the camera and the network (col 2 lines 6-38 and col 3 lines 1-58).

Considering claim 20, please refer to claim 11 since claim 11 recites the subject matter of claim 20.

Considering claim 21, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein camera-status display means further displays starting and ending of operation of the camera apparatuses connected to the network (fig 2, camera starting is displayed by symbols 62 and 64, ending operation is displayed by symbol 72).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 11-15, 17, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan.

Considering claim 11, Morgan discloses 1) the claimed a camera control system being capable of controlling camera of the selected apparatus by outputting a command to the selected apparatus (col 3 lines 20-58), 2) the claimed layout means (fig 2), 3) the claimed symbol-generating means for enabling to generate camera symbols on a layout image displayed by layout-display means (fig. 2, symbol generating means is inherently included to generate symbols), 4) the claimed setting means (col 3 lines 20-58, fig. 2, setting means is inherently included which sets the camera symbols inherently generated by the symbol-generating means to positions on the layout of the display), 5) the claimed storage means is inherently included in the processor (fig 1 item 20, col 3 lines 20-68, col 4 lines 1-53), and 6) the claimed display-control means for displaying the camera symbols on the layout image on the basis of the positions of the camera symbols stored by the storage means when the camera control system is started up (the display-control means is inherently included since the camera positions are stored for display on the layout screen when the camera control system is started up, fig. 1, fig. 2, col 3 lines 20-68, col. 4 lines 1-53).

Considering claim 12, Morgan discloses all the claimed subject matter, note the claimed wherein said setting means is capable of setting addition or deletion of the camera symbols on the basis of addition or deletion of the camera apparatuses (when camera is turned on (added) or turned off (deleted) setting means displays status symbols).

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Considering claim 13, Morgan inherently discloses the claimed further comprising layout-information change means for changing the layout displayed on the layout-display means on the basis of change of layout of the physical area (when a different physical area layout is viewed, the setting means would display a different layout, col 4 lines 66-68, col 5 lines 1-10).

Considering claim 14, Morgan inherently discloses wherein layout information change means adds and deletes the layout displayed on the layout-display means.

Considering claim 15, Morgan discloses the claimed output means for outputting the information of the positions of camera symbols on the layout image stored by the storage means to other control terminals (col. 3 line 20 - col. 5 line 48, camera position layout, stored in the storage means, changes with user input and is output to control terminals RCC for controlling the camera).

Considering claim 17, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein setting means is capable of setting change of the camera symbols on the basis of a setting position and the initial status of the camera apparatus (col 4 lines 23-68, col 5 lines 1-48).

Considering claim 22, Morgan discloses the claimed camera control system for selecting one of a plurality of controllable camera apparatuses connected to a network, and for controlling video display and a camera, comprising camera status display means for distinguishably displaying used statuses of at least two of the camera apparatuses on the basis of a condition where the camera apparatus is used by a terminal connected to another network or user's own terminal (fig 2, col 4 lines 46-68, col 5 lines 1-48).



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Considering claim 23, Morgan discloses the claimed camera-status display means display different camera symbols on the basis of the condition where the camera is used by another terminal or by user's own terminal of not used by anyone (fig. 2, different camera symbols are shown if the camera is not used by anyone, camera symbol 3 and 64 indicates "on" and camera symbol 32 indicates off).

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***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's arguments / Examiner's responses

(1) Applicant's respectfully submits that Morgan does not disclose, teach, or suggest "an image display means for displaying the image picked up by the selected camera apparatus on the screen on which the status of the camera apparatus is displayed" as required by amended claims 3 and 20.

The Examiner agrees that Morgan does not disclose the amended subject matter. Please see rejection for new grounds of rejection as necessitated by amendment.

(2) Applicant's respectfully submit that Morgan does not disclose, teach or suggest symbol-generating means, setting means, storage means, and display-control means as required by amended independent claim 11. Morgan is silent as to means concerning the start up of a system or setting of system.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Morgan inherently discloses the symbol-generating means, setting means, and storage means since symbols are displayed and set in position with respect to a position in the room (see fig. 2). The Examiner agrees that Morgan fails to disclose the amended display control means. See rejection for new grounds of rejection necessitated by amendment. Morgan inherently discloses the claimed subject matter with respect to system startup. Since the symbols in fig. 2 are in set position and stored in the processor in fig. 1. The

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symbols will be displayed in the stored position during system startup, as a result, the applicant's arguments are not persuasive.

(3) Since claims 12-15, 17 and new claim 24 depend from claim 11, such claims incorporate all the limitations of claim 11 and are, thus, not anticipated by Morgan.

Since independent claim 24 stands rejected, claims 12-15, 17 and 24 stand rejected as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

(4) The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 23 under 35 U.S.C 103 as being unpatentable over Morgan. Applicants respectfully submit that because Morgan does not disclose, teach or suggest various elements of independent claims 3 and 22 from 4 and 23 depends from, claims 4 and 23 are distinguishable from Morgan and are in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested.

Since independent base claims 3 and 22 stand rejected, claims 4 and 23 stand rejected as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 12 and 24 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 1) Lang - Remote Video Viewing And Recording System For Remotely Occurring Events
- 2) Washing - Personal-Computer-Based Video Production System
- 3) Diner - Adjustable Control Station With Movable Monitors And Cameras For Viewing Systems In Robotics And Teleoperations

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4) Thompson - Synchronization Of Vertical Phase Of The Video Signals In A Video  
System

5) Cortjens et al. - Method For Automatically Adjusting The Pan And Tilt Of A Video  
Conferencing System Camera

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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**or faxed to:**

(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

(703) 305 - 5399 (for informal or draft communications, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal  
Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner  
should be directed to Vivek Srivastava whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 4038. The  
examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

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supervisor, Andy Faile, can be reached at (703) 305 - 4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 3900.

VS

VS 12/17/98

  
**Nathan Flynn**  
**Primary Examiner**